

THE LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM
First Hearing: The State Capitol, Room 4202
September 13, 2006; (9AM to 3PM)

The Autism Epidemic ~ Identifying & Closing the Gaps in Services

AGENDA

I. Introductions & Welcoming Remarks (9:00-9:15 AM)

- ◆ Hon. Darrell Steinberg, Chair
- ◆ Barbara Firestone, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
- ◆ Commission Members

II. Scientific Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (9:15-10:00 AM)

- ◆ Clinical Aspects of ASD: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Assessment, & Treatment
By Pegeen Cronin, Ph.D., Director of UCLA Autism Evaluation Clinic
- ◆ Seeking a Cure for Autism: The Promise of Neuroscience & Other Research
By David Amaral, Ph.D., Director of Research, The MIND Institute

III. ASD Across the Lifespan: The Impact on Individuals & Families (10-10:45 AM)

- ◆ The Early Years: Facing the Emotional Rollercoaster of a Child with Autism
By Donna Ross Jones; parent of child with autism; Co-Founder of Special Needs Network; President, Transition Music Corporation
- ◆ Navigating the Service Systems of ASD: A Never-Ending Task
By Nancy Fellmeth; parent of child with autism; President, Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT)
- ◆ Seeking Independence: The Challenges of Establishing a Life in the Community for Individuals with ASD.
By Anne Struthers; parent of 21 year old man with high-functioning ASD; VP, East Bay Regional Center Board of Directors

IV. Agencies & Programs for ASD (10:45-11:45 AM)

- ◆ Overview of State Systems & Programs for Individuals with ASD
By Shawn Martin, Legislative Analyst's Office
- ◆ Regional Centers & Autism: Overview of the System & How it Works
By James Burton, Executive Director, Regional Center of the East Bay
- ◆ Local Education Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities
By Dave Gordon, Superintendent, Sac. County Office of Ed
By Judy Holsinger, SELPA Director, Sac. County Office of Ed
- ◆ When the Stars Align: The Promise of Successful Programs for ASD
By Joanne Palmer, parent of a young child with ASD

VI. Public Comment. (11:45-12:30 PM)

LUNCH (12:30-1:30 pm)

VI. Commissioners' Discussion: Work-Plan & Course of Action (1:30-3:00 PM)

VII. Adjournment. (3:00 PM)